

**For Immediate Release  
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**Contacts: Vanessa Gulati  
(617) 626-1119**

**STATE ANNOUNCES 2006 URBAN FORESTRY WATERSHED AND  
HERITAGE TREE GRANT AWARDS**

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Secretary, Stephen R. Pritchard, and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner, Stephen H. Burrington, today announced the awarding of seven Urban Forestry Watershed and Heritage Tree grants totaling \$52,000. The grants are being awarded to projects that showcase the importance of mature trees in a healthy community landscape and proper techniques for their care and maintenance. The Urban Forestry Watershed grants will help fund projects that quantify and publicize the important role that urban and community trees and forests play in maintaining water quality, controlling stormwater runoff, and maintaining overall watershed health.

Over the past five years, DCR has awarded \$135,000 in Heritage Tree grants to 54 communities and non-profit groups across the Commonwealth. In the past three years, the DCR has also awarded eight Urban Forestry Watershed grants totaling \$66,000. These grant programs are funded with U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service monies that are passed through to the states. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program administer these grants.

“I am happy to announce funding for these projects that involve municipalities and local citizen groups in the planning and management of our urban forests,” said Secretary Pritchard. “Such efforts contribute to the long-term sustainability of healthy, strong and green communities.”

“These grants will provide funding for important baseline data collection activities and public education efforts about the role that our forests play in watershed health and they will provide some much needed care for some of our oldest and most spectacular public trees,” said Commissioner Burrington. “These programs are helping to encourage community stewardship of our urban forests.”

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**Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF)  
2006 Watershed and Heritage Tree Care Grants**

**Funded Projects: Total \$52,211**

**Watershed Projects:**

**Salem Sound Coast Watch: \$19,980**

Project Description – This proposal supports the North River Watershed Assessment Project, which builds on a previous successful watershed project, and will communicate the importance of urban trees, forests and greenspaces to community leaders in the towns of Peabody and Danvers, complete a watershed assessment, and develop educational materials. It will ideally lead to the conservation, management and restoration of strategic parcels for enhanced stormwater management.

**Urban Ecology Institute: \$16,000**

Project Description – Funding from the grant will go to support the Stony Brook Land and Water Project, an innovative urban watershed project that builds on the model Watershed 263 project from Baltimore. This project will engage community youth in taking inventory of trees and vacant lands in the Stony Brook Watershed and then making presentations to community leaders and residents. Ideally it will lead to the implementation of vacant lands projects that improve stormwater management and quality of life in the watershed. This project also links to the ongoing Greater Boston Urban Forest Inventory Project which is establishing a tree inventory for all of Boston for strategic management of the Boston urban forest.

**Heritage Tree Grants:**

**City of Pittsfield / Pittsfield Tree Watch: \$4,988**

Project Description: The Heritage Tree Care Project will provide certified arborist care, pruning and cabling, to five of Pittsfield's large and significant trees at the City's gateways and downtown. The volunteer group, Pittsfield Tree Watch, conducted a thorough survey of Pittsfield's heritage trees and selected the most deserving for this application. The City of Pittsfield is providing match to this project through their Department of Public Works

**Haverhill Historical Society's Worshipping Oak Project: \$2,074**

Project Description: This project will provide expert care to what may be the oldest living tree in Massachusetts, the "Worshipping Oak" in Haverhill. This tree is recorded to have been used as a meeting place dating back to before the first meeting house was built in 1648. The project will remove deadwood from the tree with a special crane and provide fertilizer and nutrients to the tree.

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**Town of Westford Common Heritage Project: \$3,144**

Project Description : This project will provide pruning and fertilizing to five trees on the Westford Town Common, following recommendations of the Town Common Plan. The trees on the Common were laid out in 1839. The Heritage trees range in size from 36” to 67”.

**Oakham Town Hall Elm Project: \$1,100**

Project Description: This project proposes to provide crown cleaning and protection from Dutch Elm Disease (DED) to the last surviving Elm in the center of Oakham. This tree is a 46” American elm shown in a photograph from 1874, surrounded by residents celebrating the completion of the new town hall.

**Lanesborough Tree and Forest Committee: \$4,925**

Project Description: This project will provide certified arborist care to six significant trees in the town of Lanesborough that contribute to that town’s character and quality, including the state champion American elm and a 67” silver maple. The Lanesborough Tree and Forest Committee has also noted all their work as volunteers to raise awareness and funds for tree care in town and promote community forestry.

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